

5th Marines Commanding Officer

Biography of Colonel Patrick J. Malay

Colonel Malay was born and raised near Buffalo, New York. He enlisted in May 1981. Upon completion of recruit training at MCRD, Parris Island, he was assigned to I Company, 25th Marines, USMCR, Buffalo, New York. After earning his Bachelors Degree in Sociology from the University of Buffalo in 1984, he was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant via the Platoon Leaders Course. Upon completion of the Basic School and the Infantry Officers Course, he was assigned to 3d Battalion, 3d Marines, 1st MEB, as a Rifle and Weapons Platoon Commander. In January 1988, he was transferred to 3d Reconnaissance Battalion where he served as a Platoon and Company Commander, until July 1990. In August of 1990 he reported to the Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center, Bridgeport, California, and filled billets as Officer-in-Charge of Unit Operations & the Mountain Leaders Course while ending his tour as the Operations Officer in June 1993. From August 1993 to June 1996, he assumed the duties as the Inspector-Instructor, Bravo Company, 24th Marines, Saginaw, Michigan. In June 1996, Colonel Malay assumed command of the Marine Corps Security Force Company, Diego Garcia, which was re-designated as the Interim Marine Corps Security Force Company, Bahrain. In September 1998 he reported to 1st Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion and served as the Executive Officer. He was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel in August 2000, was transferred to I MEF and assigned to G-7, Special Operations Training Group, Operations Officer. In September 2001, Colonel Malay was assigned to the US European Command where he served in Lithuania and Bosnia. Upon return he was assigned to 1st Marine Division as the Headquarter Battalion Executive Officer and assumed command of 3d Battalion 5th Marines in June 2003. In 2005, he was assigned as the Director, Special Operations Training Group, I MEF. He was selected for promotion to Colonel and was assigned to the US Army War College in 2006.



He is a graduate of the United States Army Ranger and Airborne Courses, the United States Navy Scuba and Dive Supervisors Courses, the United States Marine Corps Summer and Winter Mountain Leader Courses, Dynamics of International Terrorism, Joint Special Operations Planning Course and Anti-Terrorism Instructor Qualification Course.

His awards include the Bronze Star with "V", the Purple Heart, the Combat Action Ribbon, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal with three Gold Stars, the Navy, Marine Corps Commendation Medal and the Navy, Marine Corps Achievement Medal with Gold Star in Lieu of Second Award. Colonel Malay holds a Masters Degree in Social Science from Syracuse University